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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicants : Bernd Krause, Matthias Wessling and Heiner Strathmann
Title : MEMBRANE AND USE THEREOF
Docket No. : WEB 0044 PA

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add the following new claims 16-34:

16. A method of making a polymeric membrane comprising:
providing a polymer or mix of polymers and forming said polymer or mix of polymers into a predetermined shape, said polymer or mix of polymers containing from about 0.05 to about 4.5% by weight of a fluid that dissolves or swells the polymer or mix of polymers;
charging said polymer or mix of polymers with a gas;
foaming said polymer or mix of polymers at a temperature above the glass transition temperature of the polymer/gas mixture; and
stabilizing the resulting foam structure by cooling.
17. A method as claimed in claim 16 in which said fluid is infiltrated into said polymer or polymer mix.
18. A method as claimed in claim 16 in which said fluid is added to said polymer or polymer mix during manufacture.